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Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" With reference to answers to clauses (c) and (d), may I know, Sir, whether there is any proposal to shift any of the public offices to these project areas? "

The Hon. Raja Sri SHANMUGHA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" No public office is sought to be shifted there. We are thinking of starting some technological and industrial schools there. A Cabinet Sub-Committee has been formed to go into this question."

Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" What steps have been taken, Sir, for the absorption of the large labour force that was employed there for the execution of these schemes? "

The Hon. Raja Sri SHANMUGHA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" It is a general matter which I cannot say. They have got to find some employment."

Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Sir, with reference to Malampuzha Project, may I know, whether the Palghat Municipal Water-supply scheme has been provided for under the main scheme? "

The Hon. Raja Sri SHANMUGHA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Provision has been made to supply water to the municipality. But then there is the question of payment and other things. This subject belongs to my Hon. Colleague. The question may be addressed to him."

Appointment of an Expert Committee to scrutinize the estimates prepared by the Public Works Department.

* 60 Q.—Sri T. M. DAIVASIKHAMANI ACHARIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the remarks made by the ex-Chief Minister Sri O. P. Ramaswami Reddiar on the floor of the House on 19th March 1952 during general discussion of the Budget for the year 1952–53 regarding the necessity of appointing an Expert Committee to scrutinize the estimates prepared by the Public Works Department;

(b) whether any step has been taken in the direction;

(c) whether the lump-sum contract system which was in vogue during 1927 still continues; and

(d) if not, whether the Government will be pleased to state the reasons for not adopting the system as one among the other systems?

The Hon. Raja Sri SHANMUGHA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (a) The Government are aware of it, Sir.

" (b) Estimates for P.W.D. works are prepared with reference to a schedule of rates carefully worked out by Superintending Engineers on the basis of tenders accepted for works in the division during the preceding twelve months. The schedule is also modified with reference to changes in rates and prices.

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The idea of having a Special Committee for scrutinizing estimates was considered in 1931 as well as in 1951 and it was found out that there was no advantage in the proposal. It is not necessary to reconsider the matter again now.

"(c) Yes.

"(d) Does not arise in view of answer to clause (c)."

SRI T. M. DAIVASIKHAMANI ACHARIAR :—"The appointment of a Special Scrutinizing Committee was recommended by several Members including the hon. Member Sri Purushotham in the last Budget Session. Is that not a fact, Sir?"

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGHA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—"I have no idea about the hon. Member Sri Purushotham having suggested that. But I have already said that it is not found to be of much use."

SRI T. M. DAIVASIKHAMANI ACHARIAR :—"Is there any profit in lump sum contract system? Will the Government give it a fair trial?"

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGHA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—"I have said some time back that the lump sum contract system which was in vogue during 1927 still continues."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—"May I know, Sir, whether it is not a fact that proposals or suggestions made during the Budget debate are examined in the Secretariat and action taken thereon?"

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGHA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—"Certainly, Sir."

SRI G. KRISHNAMURTHI :—"Is it not a fact that Public Works estimates are considerably higher than estimates given by private contractors and, if so, what is the reason for that, Sir?"

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGHA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—"I do not quite follow what the hon. Member wants."

SRI G. KRISHNAMURTHI :—"Is it not a fact, Sir, that Public Works estimates, i.e., the departmental estimates, are considerably higher than the estimates given by private contractors, and, if so, what is the reason for that, Sir?"

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGHA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—"I have no knowledge. I want notice, Sir."

SRI T. M. DAIVASIKHAMANI ACHARIAR :—"Our ex-Chief Minister Sri O. P. Ramaswami Reddiar has stated that the Public Works Department have got a way of increasing the estimates by leaps and bounds and, naturally, they are more than the actual estimates which are furnished by the contractors?"

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THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGHA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Sir, I canont speak about the authority and other things on which our ex-Chief Minister, Sri O. P. Ramaswami Reddiar, has made that statement. We are only concerned with the practical side of the question. If the hon. Member has got a practical suggestion, I will consider it."

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" May I know, Sir, what was the practice obtaining in the Public Works Department when the hon. Member Sri O. P. Ramaswami Reddiar was the Chief Minister? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGHA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" I require notice, Sir."

Protest against the sudden and abnormal increase of property tax in Cuddalore Municipality.

* 61 *Q.*—SRI M. ETHIRAJULU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether any representation has been received recently by the Government from the public protesting against the sudden and abnormal increase of property tax in Cuddalore Municipality; and if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASWAMI PADAYATCHI :—" Yes. The petitions were forwarded to the Commissioner, Cuddalore Municipality, and he was instructed to inform the petitioners that they may prefer revision petitions to the Commissioner against the assessments fixed by the Special Revision Officer for quinquennial revision of property tax and that they have also a right of appeal to the Municipal Council against the orders of the Commissioner on such revision petitions."

SRI M. ETHIRAJULU :—" கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, சில குடும்பத்தார்களுக்கு மட்டும் இந்த வரி உயர்வு ஏற்பட்டிருந்தால் முனிசிபல் கமிஷனருக்கும், முனிசிபல் கவுன்சிலுக்கும் அப்பீல் செய்து கொள்வது நியாயம். இப்பொழுது கடலூர் முனிசிபல் எல்லையிலுள்ள பதினெட்டாயிரம் குடும்பங்களுக்கும் ஒரு பங்குக்கு ஏழு பங்காக வரி உயர்த்தி விதிக்கப்பட்டிருப்பதால், மக்கள் கொதிப்படைந்திருப்பதைக் கண்டு சர்க்கார் உடனடியாக அந்த வரியை வசூலிக்காமலிருக்கத் தடை உத்தரவு பிறப்பிக்குமா ? "

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASWAMI PADAYATCHI :—" I have instructed the Municipal Council to investigate the whole matter, Sir."

SRI M. ETHIRAJULU :—" சாக்கார் உத்தரவின்றி தங்களுடைய சொந்த ஹோதாவில் சட்ட வரம்பை மீறி ஒரு மடங்குக்கு ஏழு மடங்காக வரி உயர்வை ஏற்படுத்திய அதிகாரியின்மீது சர்க்கார் நடவடிக்கை எடுக்குமா ? "

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASWAMI PADAYATCHI :—" போட்ட வரியானது சரியா என்று பரிசீலனை செய்த பிறகுதான் ஒரு முடிவுக்கு வரமுடியும்."